

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for caching, comprising:
 - registering a module;
 - evaluating a parameter of a request, wherein the parameter is evaluated by the module;
 - creating a signature based on the evaluation;
 - searching for responsive content in a cache based on the signature; and
 - generating responsive content and storing it in the cache if no responsive content is found in the cache.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising delivering the responsive content to an originator of the request.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering a template.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising associating the request with the template.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the parameter is defined by the template.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising
 - extracting data related to the parameter from the request;

and passing the data to the module.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the parameter is a query string variable, a client locale, a cookie variable, form data, a Java bean, or a user defined parameter.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the signature is formed from the module's evaluation.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the parameter and the module pertain to capabilities of a browser initiating the request.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the parameter is a user-agent string extracted from a header in the request.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the module evaluates the capabilities of the browser using an extensible markup language file.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the extensible markup language file defines a list of rules which map the user-agent string to a list of browser capabilities.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the list of rules may be expanded.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing template metadata and request metadata in the cache, wherein the template metadata and request metadata are associated with the responsive content.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the request metadata is formed from the module's evaluation.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the request metadata is a list or a hash table.

18. A software system for caching, comprising machine or computer readable media containing instructions translatable for:

- registering a module;
- evaluating a parameter of a request, wherein the parameter is evaluated by the module;
- creating a signature based on the evaluation;
- searching for responsive content in a cache based on the signature; and
- generating responsive content and storing it in the cache if no responsive content is found in the cache.

19. The software system of claim 18, further comprising instructions translatable for receiving a request.

20. The software system of claim 19, further comprising instructions translatable for delivering the responsive content to an originator of the request.

21. The software system of claim 18, further comprising instructions translatable for registering a template.

22. The software system of claim 21, further comprising instructions translatable for associating the request with the template.

23. The software system of claim 22, wherein the parameter is defined by the template.

24. The software system of claim 23, further comprising instructions translatable for extracting data related to the parameter from the request, and passing the data to the module.

25. The software system of claim 24, wherein the parameter is a query string variable, a client locale, a cookie variable, form data, a Java bean, or a user defined parameter.

26. The software system of claim 24, wherein the signature is formed from the module's evaluation.

27. The software system of claim 18, wherein the parameter and the module pertain to capabilities of a browser initiating the request.

28. The software system of claim 27, wherein the parameter is a user-agent string extracted from a header in the request.

29. The software system of claim 28, wherein the module evaluates the capabilities of the browser using an extensible markup language file.

30. The software system of claim 29, wherein the extensible markup language file defines a list of rules which map the user-agent string to a list of browser capabilities.

31. The software system of claim 30, wherein the list of rules may be expanded.

32. The software system of claim 18, further comprising

instructions translatable for storing template metadata and request metadata in the cache, wherein the template metadata and request metadata are associated with the responsive content.

33. The software system of claim 32, wherein the request metadata is formed from the module's evaluation.

34. The software system of claim 33, wherein the request metadata is a list or a hash table.

35. A method for caching, comprising:

- registering a module capable of evaluating the capabilities of a browser;

- evaluating a parameter of a request, wherein the parameter pertains to the capabilities of the browser which initiated the request and is evaluated by the module;

- creating a signature based on the evaluation;

- searching for responsive content in a cache based on the signature; and

- generating responsive content and storing it in the cache if no responsive content is found in the cache.